

SUMMER 2014 MAGAZINE

Welcome to the summer 2014 edition of our Magazine. This issue runs from 1st July to 30th September 2014.

It includes reports from the following groups

Ballroom Dancing

Games

Walking - July, August & September

Science and Nature

Dinahs Group

Summer Outing to Powis Castle

Groups Gala and AGM

Discusson Group

Pilates Group (Christmas Lunch)

During this period the major building alterations and updating at the Methodist Church Centre in Old Town, Stratford-upon-Avon, where we hold most of our meetings, were completed. An official opening ceremony is scheduled for the autumn. See the photograph below.

We would love to have more reports from groups not represented here. Please forward any text and/or photographs to the editor.



Walking Group - 9th July 2014



The walk for July started from the canal side car park at Kingswood Junction (where the Stratford Canal joins the Grand Union Canal). The walk started along the Grand Union Canal and then across the fields towards Packwood House where a refreshment break was had. The return walk was partly along road, then along the Stratford Canal back to the car park. The

weather was fine and sunny as can be seen from the photographs. The photograph above was taken at Packwood House during the refreshment break.

The photograph opposite was taken by the gates to Packwood House and the photograph below was taken by a lock gate.



Ballroom Dancing Group - Wednesday 23rd July 2014

We met at 2.30pm on Wednesday 23rd July at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Old Town, for the second meeting in July. John Barker is our teacher and leader and Aline helped with the equipment.



There were about 12 members present more or less equally represented by ladies and gentlemen so we were all able to dance. We were able to practice the waltz, quickstep, tango, cha cha and foxtrot.



Three photographs are included. Dancing is a little difficult to portray in a still photograph as the couples are obviously in a clinch so one or other is always turned away and obscuring the other.



Dancing continues into August.

We have plenty of space and would like more members. Beginners welcome!!

Look for announcement in the Newsletter about future meetings as we are in process of booking up until Christmas.

Games Group - Monday 4th August 2014

We have been meeting in our new meeting room for about 6 weeks. Our new home for the time being is the Buzz Cafe in Henley Street. It is ideally situated, being in town, within easy reach of several car parks and the buses. The room is spacious without being too big. There is a bigger room next to the one we use should our numbers increase greatly. There are plenty of chairs and tables and facilities to have tea and biscuits at half time. Thank you Sue for finding our new home.

We have several tables with different games - dominoes, cards (whist, knock out whist, and others. - Cribbage is a possibility for the future.)

We have between 10 and 20 U3A members attending - August is a quieter month due to holidays, grandparenting commitments, etc. and we had 10 members at this meeting. Below are two members playing dominoes - Peter should have been in shot but was busy making tea.



Above are members playing cards and below is the Scrabble table. The writer should have been in shot but was taking the photograph.



We are open to take more members, no need to let us know - just turn up on the day.

First and third Mondays of the month, starting at 2,00pm at the Buzz Cafe, Henley Street.

Science & Nature - Visit to the MAD Museum

The Science and Nature Group visited the MAD Museum in Henley Street, Stratford-upon-Avon on Friday 8th August 2014. About 16 members assembled, a good number, as it was very quickly organised by Aline at fairly short notice.

The museum is a privately run museum and is devoted to all things mechanical (Mechanical Art and Design). Showcasing the world's finest pieces of Kinetic Art and Automata from pioneering artists all over the world, the museum is a celebration of movement, mechanics, creativity and art. It's where science and design join forces. The oldest item is a ball rolling creation made by a locksmith over 50 years ago, bought from his estate when he died and painstakingly re-assembled from a pile of pieces by the

museum staff. Some pieces celebrate movement; some passage of time; some Our members thoroughly enjoyed themselves, pushing buttons, analysing what was going on, and identifying the household objects used in construction.



The image above shows 2 pieces illustrating gears and cams to provide movement.

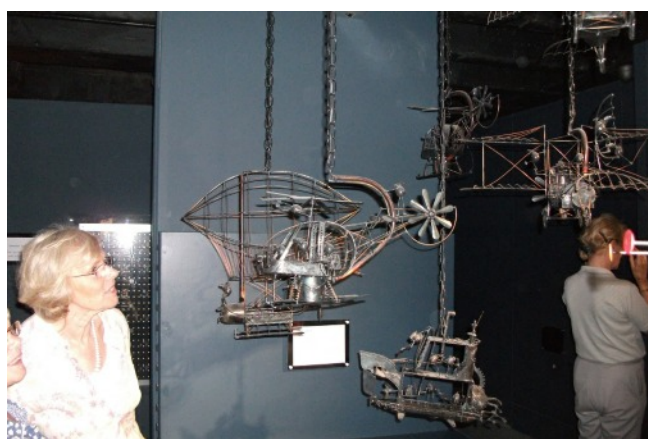
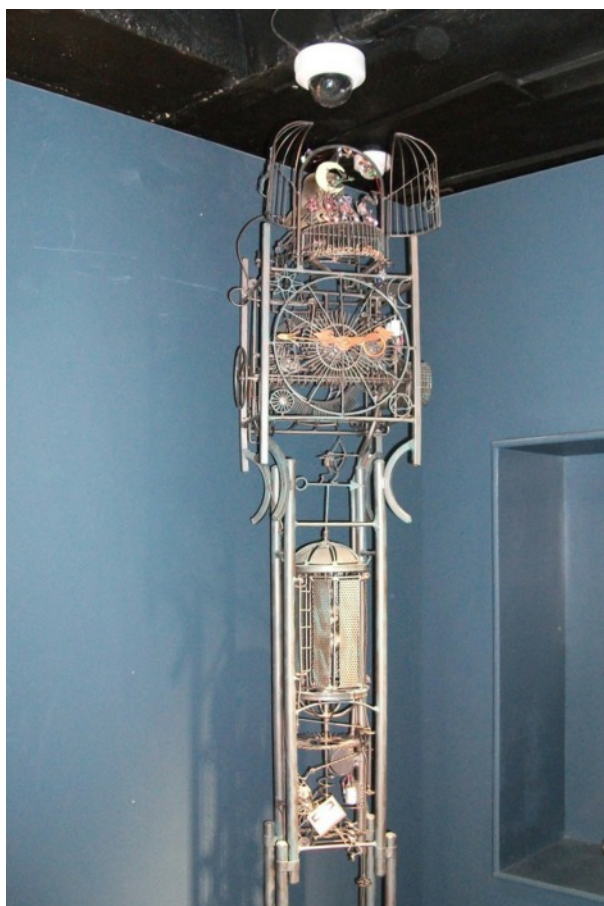
The above image and the one below show a



ball rolling item - golf balls roll down umpteen chutes, rise vertically in archimedean screws and do many strange things.

Science & Nature - Visit to the MAD Museum

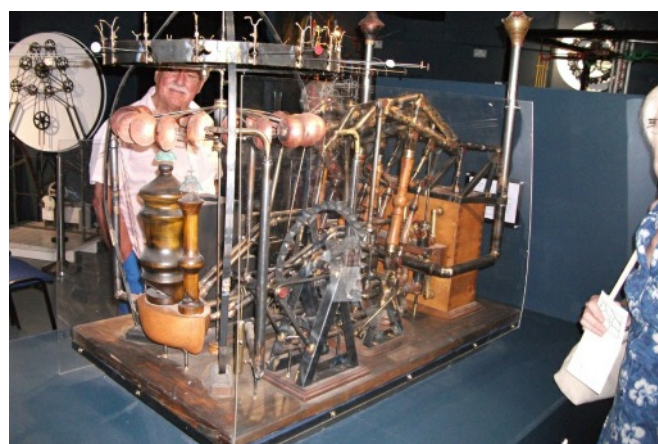
There were several time based models, only one of which always gave the correct time. The grandfather clock definitely does not, but does do some interesting things on or about the hour.



The image top right shows members looking at some sand pictures which can be set to change the picture by rotating the frame.

The image centre right is a wire frame model illustrating flying machines of a sort.

The image bottom right seems to have been built with odds and ends from a plumber's toolbox.



Dinahs Group - Late report



Report of a meeting in June 2011

A photograph has just emerged which was taken at a normal Dinahs meeting in June 2011, before the Magazine began life. Sylvia Crooks found the photograph and determined where and when it was taken.

The meeting in June 2011 was at No 9 Church Street where they have an upstairs dining room, ideal for a discussion group to lunch. The discussions that day, according to the report in the July Newsletter, related to e coli bacteria, cucumber worries in Spain and Germany, old age, police, drugs, and the Community Services, plus a few dog stories. Margaret Barnet, a newcomer to the group, talked about her son and family in the Middle East, also the cruise she was going on.

There were mixed feelings about the food. The room was very good, beautifully laid for lunch at a large round table. Two flights of stairs might have coloured some people's views. The next meeting in July was to be at Town House, Church Street.

Thank you Sylvia for taking the trouble to bring the photograph and reports to our attention.

Outing to Powis Castle - Tuesday 12th August 2014



A party of some 50-odd U3A members from Heart of England went to Powis Castle, a National Trust property near Welshpool, for a summer outing. Coral had organised it well with pickups in Stratford and Henley. We arrived at Powis a little before 11.00am, just in time for coffee, which most of the party seemed to partake of, some including such naughties as cake, in the restaurant in the castle courtyard. There was no organised itinerary, everyone was able to get around the castle buildings and gardens in their own time. The writer explored the gardens first as the weather was sunny and dry, a state of affairs that was not likely to last all day. It did rain a couple of times but we were fortunate to be inside at the time. The gardens were lovely with plenty of flowers in the borders on the terraces. The great lawn and formal gardens in the valley

were green and verdant. The hedges were clipped straight and square, almost within an inch of their lives!



Outing to Powis Castle - Tuesday 12th August 2014

There was entertainment - in the orangery on the lower terrace, a lady (dressed as a man) was singing and performing old time music hall songs and turns.

One could sit in the orangery and sing along with her.

Pictured are

U3A members in the Orangery singing along.

Upper Terrace, formal garden beyond

Lower Terrace and Orangery

Examples of hedges clipped to exact rectangles

Peahen and chicks in courtyard

U3A members gathering up by the coach prior to departure



Walking Group - Wednesday 13th August 2014



Thirteen members turned up for the walk on Wednesday 13th August and there were a few mutterings along the way about luck and thirteen. We met in the central car park in Southam from where we started our walk. After crossing the main street in Southam we were very quickly into countryside on a roughly circular route mostly across fields or through small copses. Very soon we came across a sacred well - see the photograph. We stopped in the middle of a cereal field after harvest for a group photograph. We stopped in another field for a short refreshment break before heading back to Southam. The walk was different from many others as we had not walked in the Southam area before. The weather remained dry and mostly sunny although there were some nasty looking clouds about. Thanks Val and Fred for organising the walk.



Group Gala at September Meeting - 4th September 2014

At our meeting on the 4th September we were first entertained by a "Strictly Come Dancing" DVD played over the the twin TV screens in the hall whilst we were waiting for the meeting to start - this was by the Ballroom Dancing class. We then started with our 13th Annual General Meeting where we listened to reports from the Chairman, Geoff Bridgewater, and from our Treasurer, Sue Tringham. We then voted for Geoff and Sue to continue as the officers of the group and also voted in a new committee to serve for the next 12 months.

Afterwards there were presentations from some of the Interest Groups, including opening and closing songs from the Choir. The Play Reading Group gave a short performance which was very well received.

In the lounge there were some table top displays by The Film Group, The All Swing & Jazz Group, the Big Band Music & Jazz Group, The Creative Craft Group; the creative crafts Group display also included the Chairman's Christmas Coat of many colours appeal - a coat made from knitted squares and intended to be sponsored to provide funds for The Stroke Association. There was a rolling presentation on the TV screen by the Science & Nature Group illustrating some of their recent activities.

In the entrance area Carolyn was selling greetings cards for the Card Making Group.



Above - The Film Group display
Below - The All Swing & Jazz Group



Above - Creative Crafts

Group Gala at September Meeting - 4th September 2014



Above - further Creative Crafts
 Below - the Chairman's Christmas Coat.



Above - Main Hall during meeting



Chairman, Geoff Bridgewater conducting AGM.



Choir performing a song before the Meeting



Play Reading Group performing.

Walking Group - Wednesday 10th September 2014

Malcolm and Elaine led the walk today. We met at The George public house in Lower Brailes, a very pretty village on the edge of the Cotswolds. The walk took us in a roughly circular route around towards Sutton-under-Brailes and back to Lower Brailes. There were some hilly sections with good views across the countryside, across a golf course and through some woods. Fortunately, the going was quite dry most of the time

and only a few stiles. Thanks to Malcolm and Elaine for a good walk.

Walking over pronounced 'ridge & furrow' features in field early in walk. (Below left)

Group photograph at coffee break - bottom of page.

Photograph below shows group negotiating a stile on a steep bank.



Walking Group - Wednesday 10th September 2014

Fortunately, all the stiles we met were in reasonable condition.



In Sutton-under-Brailes the church was open so we stopped briefly to look around in it.



Around the golf course we a couple of tight bridges and tunnels through dense hedges. Both took a bit of time to get through.

From one of the hills we traversed there was quite a nice view of Lower Brailes in the distance.



Discussion Group - Wednesday 10th September 2014

The Discussion Group held their September meeting at the Windmill in Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon.

Athena asked me to lead the group as she and Aline were at the National U3A AGM. Athena asked us to help with the choice of menus for the U3A New Year lunch followed by more food discussion on how eating patterns have changed over the years. We quickly decided that our generation had the war years with rationing, no sweets, etc. so that the obesity problem of today is a direct consequence of the availability of

junk food and sugar rich drinks among other things. Lack of food education and exercise, no cooking skills and convenience foods are also contributing to the obesity problem. People's expectations and priorities have changed. We discussed ISIS and felt that the payment of ransoms by some countries was not helping.

Report by Sue Tringham

Photographs by Norma Hampson.



Monday Pilates Group Christmas Lunch - December 2013

Photographs have just become available to provide a record of the successful and enjoyable Christmas Lunch for the Monday Pilates Group, led by Gill Ganner. Members met at Gill's house where she entertained the group.

The photograph below shows members seated at the lunch table.

